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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 000553

SIPDIS

DOD FOR DEPSECDEF, SECDEF FOR DUSD POLICY, DUSD TECHNOLOGY,  
DUSD SECURITY, DUSD POLICY AND COUNTER-PROLIFERATION  
COMFLCC ALSO PASS TO SURGEON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/13/2013

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [KU](#) [MCAP](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [US](#)

SUBJECT: ANTHRAX AND SMALLPOX PROGRAM FOR KUWAITI MILITARY

Classified By: CDA FRANK C. URBANCIC, REASON: 1.5 (B) AND (D)

1. (U) This is an action request. See para 5.
2. (C) The United States and Kuwait are standing shoulder to shoulder in the international effort to disarm Iraq. As a result of Kuwait's geographic location next to Iraq, and the political decision by the GoK to support very large numbers of US troops in the country, Kuwait is the first and most likely target of any future Iraqi bio-terror attack in the region.
3. (C) All US troops are fully vaccinated against both anthrax and smallpox. As part of its own efforts to provide equal protections to its troops who will be standing in the same terrain as their US counterparts, the GoK has requested enough smallpox and anthrax vaccine to inoculate 15,000 of its own personnel. The US response has been disappointing, and our hosts have negatively noted it. In the LoA which we have been instructed to provide to the Kuwaitis, the US has offered only enough anthrax vaccine for 2750 people, and it has offered to sell both the anthrax and smallpox vaccines, vice provide it as aid in kind. Thus, we are not only not providing quantities sufficient to protect these coalition partners, we are asking them to pay for these relatively small and insufficient amounts.
4. (C) This slap at the Kuwaitis has arrived at exactly the same moment that the Embassy is engaged in intensive efforts with the GoK to secure their approval (not required under the terms of the current DCA) to provide additional millions of dollars-worth of jet fuel, access to ports, and vast amounts of other supplies to US forces as aid in kind from the GoK to the coalition forces. Embassy views this situation as degrading to our overall relationship, potentially jeopardizing Kuwaiti willingness to approve future aid in kind requests from the United States.
5. (C) Action Request: That the Department revisit this issue with DoD urgently to secure sufficient supplies of smallpox and anthrax vaccine for the full 15,000 personnel requests by the GoK, and that it be provided as aid in kind from the United States.

URBANCIC